

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 17, 18 and 23 have been amended.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the  
Application:

**Claims 1-16 (previously cancelled)**

**Claim 17 (currently amended)** A jewelry clasp for releaseably compressively holding a  
spherically shaped ornamental object, comprising:

a first semi-spherically shaped fixture comprising a truncated portion of a first spherical  
shell having a first inner concave surface, a first outer convex surface, and a first edge  
continuously joining said first inner concave surface and said first outer convex surface;

a second semi-spherically shaped fixture comprising a truncated portion of a second  
spherical shell having a second inner concave surface and a second outer convex surface, and a  
second edge continuously joining said second inner concave surface and said second outer  
convex surface; and

a spring member having a semicircular shape, said spring member having a first end and  
a second end, wherein said first end is affixed to a central area of said first outer convex surface  
of said first fixture, interiorly of said first edge thereof, and wherein said second end is affixed to  
a central area of said second outer convex surface of said second fixture interiorly of said second  
edge thereof, whereupon said spherically shaped ornamental object is compressively held  
between said first and second semi-spherically shaped fixtures.

**Claim 18 (currently amended)** A jewelry clasp for releaseably compressively holding an  
ornamental object, comprising:

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a first fixture comprising a first convexoconcave structure having a first inner concave surface, a first outer convex surface, and a first edge continuously joining said first inner concave surface and said first outer convex surface;

a second fixture comprising a second convexoconcave structure having a second inner concave surface and a second outer convex surface, and a second edge continuously joining said second inner concave surface and said second outer convex surface; and

a spring member having a semicircular shape, said spring member having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end is affixed to a central area of said first outer convex surface of said first fixture, interiorly of said first edge thereof, and wherein said second end is affixed to a central area of said second outer convex surface of said second fixture interiorly of said second edge thereof, whereupon said spherically shaped ornamental object is compressively held between said first and second semi-spherically shaped fixtures, said clasp further comprising:

a first cellular material disposed on said first inner concave surface of said first fixture;  
and

a second cellular material disposed on said second inner concave surface of said second fixture.

**Claim 19 (previously cancelled)**

**Claim 20 (previously presented)** A jewelry clasp for releaseably holding an ornamental object, comprising:

a first fixture comprising a first convexoconcave structure having a first inner concave surface, a first outer convex surface, and a first edge continuously joining said first inner concave surface and said first outer convex surface;

a second fixture comprising a second convexoconcave structure having a second inner

concave surface and a second outer convex surface, and a second edge continuously joining said second inner concave surface and said second outer convex surface; and

a spring member having a semicircular shape, said spring member having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end is affixed to said first outer convex surface of said first fixture, interiorly of said first edge thereof, and wherein said second end is affixed to said second outer convex surface of said second fixture interiorly of said second edge thereof, wherein said spring member further comprises:

a first end portion;

a second end portion; and

a midpoint;

wherein said first end portion connects said first end and said midpoint, and wherein said second end portion connects said second end and said midpoint;

said clasp further comprising:

a first connector having a first proximal end and a first distal end, wherein said first proximal end is disposed on said first end portion of said spring member, such that said first distal end extends outwardly from said member in the direction of said second end portion; and

a second connector having a second proximal end and a second distal end, wherein said second proximal end is disposed on said second end portion of said spring member, such that said second distal end extends outwardly from said spring member in the direction of said first end portion;

wherein said first distal end is moveably connected to said second distal end.

**Claim 21 (previously presented)** The clasp of claim 20, wherein said first distal end comprises

a first ratchet portion and said second distal end comprises a second ratchet portion, and wherein said first distal end is disposed adjacent said second distal end such that said first ratchet portion slidably mates with said second ratchet portion.

**Claim 22 (previously presented)** The clasp of claim 20, wherein:

said first distal end is threaded in a first orientation;

said second distal end is threaded in a second orientation;

said clasp further comprising a body containing an aperture disposed therethrough, wherein said aperture has a first opening threaded in said first orientation, and a second opening threaded in said second orientation;

wherein said body is rotatably coupled to both said first threaded distal end and said second threaded distal end.

**Claim 23 (currently amended)** A jewelry clasp for releaseably compressively holding a spherically shaped ornamental object, comprising:

a first semi-spherically shaped fixture comprising a truncated portion of a first spherical shell having a concave inner surface and convex outer surface, wherein said inner surface of said first fixture has concave shape covered by a first cellular material;

a second semi-spherically shaped fixture comprising a truncated portion of a second spherical shell having a concave inner surface and convex outer surface, wherein said inner surface of said second fixture has a concave shape covered by a first cellular material; and

a spring member having a semicircular shape, said spring member having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end is affixed to a central area of said convex outer surface of said first fixture, interiorly of an edge thereof, and said second end is affixed to a central area of said convex outer surface of said second fixture interiorly of an edge thereof, whereupon said

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spherically shaped ornamental object is compressively held between said first and second semi-spherically shaped fixtures.

**Claim 24 (previously presented)** The clasp of claim 23, wherein said first fixture comprises a first convexoconcave structure having a first edge continuously joining said first inner concave surface and said first convex outer surface.

**Claim 25 (previously presented)** The clasp of claim 24, wherein said second fixture further comprises a second convexoconcave structure having a second edge continuously joining said second inner concave surface and said second outer convex surface.

**Claim 26 (previously cancelled)**

**Claim 27 (previously presented)** A jewelry clasp for releaseably holding an ornamental object, comprising:

a first fixture having a concave inner surface and convex outer surface, wherein said inner surface of said first fixture has a concave shape covered by a first cellular material;

a second fixture having a concave inner surface and convex outer surface, wherein said inner surface of said second fixture has a concave shape covered by a first cellular material; and

a spring member having a semicircular shape, said spring member having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end is affixed to said convex outer surface of said first fixture, interiorly of an edge thereof, and said second end is affixed to said convex outer surface of said second fixture interiorly of an edge thereof, wherein said spring member further comprises:

a first end portion;

a second end portion; and

a midpoint;

wherein said first end portion connects said first end and said midpoint, and wherein said second end portion connects said second end and said midpoint;

said clasp further comprising:

a first connector having a first proximal end and a first distal end, wherein said first proximal end is disposed on said first end portion of said spring member, such that said first distal end extends outwardly from said member in the direction of said second end portion; and

a second connector having a second proximal end and a second distal end, wherein said second proximal end is disposed on said second end portion of said spring member, such that said second distal end extends outwardly from said spring member in the direction of said first end portion;

wherein said first distal end is moveably connected to said second distal end.

**Claim 28 (previously presented)** The clasp of claim 27, wherein said first distal end comprises a ratchet portion and said second distal end comprises a second ratchet portion, and wherein said first distal end is disposed adjacent said second distal end such that said first ratchet portion slidingly mates with said second ratchet portion.

**Claim 29 (previously presented)** The clasp of claim 27, wherein:

said first distal end is threaded in a first orientation;

said second distal end is threaded in a second orientation;

said clasp further comprising a body containing an aperture disposed therethrough, wherein said aperture has a first opening and a second opening, and wherein said first opening is threaded in said first orientation, and a second opening threaded in said second orientation;

wherein said body is rotatably coupled to both said first threaded distal end and said second threaded distal end.

**Claim 30 (previously presented)** A clasp for releaseably holding an ornamental object, comprising:

- a first fixture having a concave shaped first surface and a convex second surface;
- a second fixture having a concave shaped first surface and a convex second surface; and
- a semicircular shaped spring member having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end is affixed to said convex second surface of said first fixture, and said second end is affixed to said convex second surface of said second fixture, wherein said spring member further comprises:

- a first end portion
- a second end portion; and
- a midpoint;

wherein said first end portion connects said first end and said midpoint, and wherein said second end portion connects said second end and said midpoint;

said clasp further comprising:

- a first connector having a first proximal end and a first distal end, wherein said first proximal end is disposed on said first end portion of said spring member, such that said first distal end extends outwardly from said member in the direction of said second end portion; and
- a second connector having a second proximal end and a second distal end, wherein said second proximal end is disposed on said second end portion of said spring member, such that said second distal end extends outwardly from said spring member in the direction of said first end portion;

wherein said first distal end is moveably connected to said second distal end,

wherein said first distal end comprises a first ratchet portion and said second distal end

comprises a second ratchet portion, and wherein said first distal end is disposed adjacent said second distal end such that said first ratchet portion slidingly mates with said second ratchet portion;

said first distal end is threaded in a first orientation;

said second distal end is threaded in a second orientation; and

said clasp further comprises a body containing an aperture disposed therethrough, wherein said aperture has a first opening and a second opening, wherein said first opening is threaded in said first orientation, and said second opening is threaded in said second orientation; and

said body is rotatably coupled to both said first threaded distal end and said second threaded distal end.

**Claim 31 (previously presented)** A method to releaseably hold an ornamental object, comprising the steps of:

providing a clasp as claimed in claim 30:

disposing said ornamental object between said first fixture and said second fixture; and

rotating said body whereby to move said first distal end portion of said member toward said second distal end portion of said member towards each other.

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